

Executive Department,
Jackson, Miss., May 15, 1909.



Editor Times-Dispatch:

In a democratic form of government, where the average virtue and intelligence of the voters are reflected in the Constitution and laws, and in the officers intrusted with their enforcement, I can conceive of but one answer. The creature cannot be better nor greater than its creator. All animals can be improved by training. Especially is this true of the best and greatest, man, separated from the others by an impassable chasm. Training of head, heart and hand can but be helpful if it be adapted to the special life work of those trained. All education rests on certain elementary studies. After that, the instruction should be adapted to calling, condition and probable life work. If a system of education does not benefit those receiving it, and increase their opportunities for usefulness to themselves and to others, and thereby promote public welfare, then the fault lies not in the recipient, but in the method, which, by its results, proves that it did not accomplish what proper education could have accomplished. Education, like everything else, is to be tested by results. Desirable results can be obtained from every intelligent human being if correct methods be intelligently selected and systematically applied.

E. F. NOEL,
Governor of Mississippi.

Executive Department,
Springfield, Ill., June 11, 1909.



Editor Times-Dispatch:

Under a popular system of government the common standard of education is, perhaps more than elsewhere, decisive of social conditions. The active part taken by all citizens in the administration of public affairs demands that they shall be afforded ample opportunities for acquiring the education necessary to fit them to pass upon public questions. And this necessity is rather enforced than abated by the rapid accumulation of wealth which we have witnessed in the United States. I am of the opinion that no truer word has ever been spoken by American statesmen than that "we must educate, we must educate, or perish by our own prosperity."

To our excellent public school system, more than to any other single cause, is to be further-

more attributed, I believe, the marvelous advancement we have made in all forms of industry and in commerce. It could not have been achieved by our people had our standards of general education been less high or our educational opportunities less widely diffused.

It is, of course, impossible to assign to education the part which it has played in advancing our material prosperity, but it is quite certain that it would be difficult to overestimate its importance in this regard; much more difficult to overestimate the important part it has played in the successful elaboration of our various systems of government or in the maintenance of a high standard of public morality.

C. S. DENEEN,
Governor of Illinois.

Governor's Office,
Jefferson, Mo., May 28, 1909.



Editor Times-Dispatch:

The work of education along proper lines furnishes the strongest single influence for the preservation of our institutions and the advancement of the public welfare in that never-ending contest between the desire for gain and individual rights. Education must furnish the influences which will temper the first and conserve the latter.

HERBERT S. HADLEY,
Governor of Missouri.

Executive Chamber,
Denver, Col., June 14, 1909.



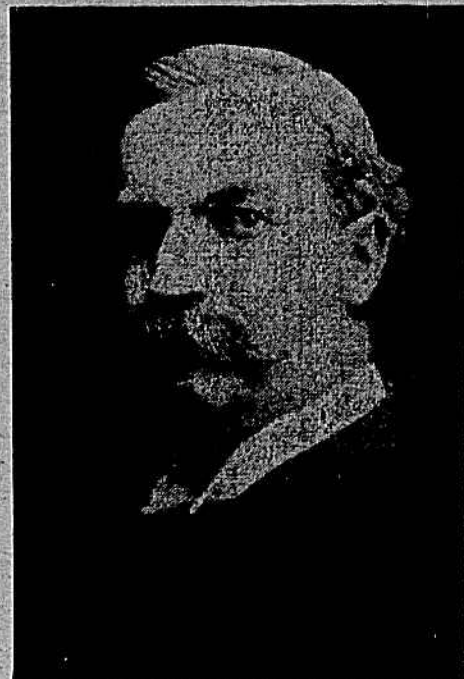
Editor Times-Dispatch:

The value of education to the country at large is so manifest and so universally recognized that it seems a waste of words to commend it. The perpetuity of republics rests almost exclusively upon the intelligence of their citizens, and the great and high positions which this country has taken among the nations of the world is due to the fact that we have more educated people within our nation than has any other country.

The State of Colorado expends for educational purposes as much, in proportion to its population, as any State in the Union, and we are all satisfied as to the wisdom of such expenditure.

JOHN F. SHOFROTH,
Governor of Colorado.

State of Michigan,
Executive Office,
Lansing.



Editor Times-Dispatch:

The weak nations of the earth, those at the foot of the class, so to speak, are those whose people dwell in ignorance. Neither in the arts of peace or war can they cope with the nations that build the schoolhouses and the colleges. It is among the uneducated, and especially those who are contented to remain so, that the foes of good government find their followers. It by no means follows that we have no "undesirable citizens" among educated people; but it is true that the seeds of socialism are more easily sown among the ignorant, and the money expended by the State for educating its youth can be likened to that paid by the individual for insurance that his dependent ones can be cared for in the years to come. In other words, it insures our national existence and guarantees the protection of a stable government to those who come after us.

FRED M. WARNER,
Governor of Michigan.

District of Alaska,
Executive Office,
Juneau, Alaska, June 28, 1909.



Editor Times-Dispatch:

I am indeed glad to learn that a newspaper with such great influence as The Times-Dispatch is earnestly engaged in an effort for the advancement of education in the United States.

It occurs to me that such efforts must meet with the approbation of all good citizens, and I wish you every success in your efforts along these lines.

W. B. HOGGATT,
Governor of Alaska.